



East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped half a percentage point from April to 1.9 percent for May in the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area and was 1.3 percentage points below May 2006 as seen in East Central Idaho Table 1. Dry, warm weather has benefited all types of construction, retail trade and the hospitality sector. In fact, no industry showed a decrease in the number of jobs over the month or a substantial decline from a year ago. The drop in professional services reflected a correction in the county where those workers live and not in the actual level of employment. Idaho Falls area, the largest city in the metropolitan area, posted an unemployment rate of 1.6 percent, down 1.1 percentage points from the previous month and 1.9 percentage points from the same time last year. This extremely low jobless rate in May appears to be a statistical aberration that likely will be corrected in the coming months.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Okos Solutions moved its headquarters from Washington D.C. to Idaho Falls in January, but waited until everything was in line with its business partners to make the official announcement in June. The company has 10 employees but hopes to expand to 50 over the next two years, most of them engineers, software professionals and technical professionals. Okos Solutions claims to be a leader in cutting edge signal processing and next generation data acquisition technologies and in offering solutions for digital imaging, software radio, LIDAR, RADAR and the signal intelligence community. Okos

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	May 2007*	Apr 2007	May 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	58,610	59,440	57,560	-1.4	1.8
Unemployment	1,090	1,410	1,820	-22.7	-40.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	2.4	3.2		
Total Employment	57,520	58,030	55,740	-0.9	3.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	58,470	58,510	57,390	-0.1	1.9
Unemployment	780	1,390	1,450	-43.9	-46.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.3	2.4	2.5		
Total Employment	57,690	57,120	55,940	1.0	3.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	51,910	51,060	53,490	1.7	-3.0
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,150	7,870	7,270	3.6	12.1
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	50	0.0	-80.0
Construction	4,730	4,450	3,890	6.3	21.6
Manufacturing	3,410	3,410	3,330	0.0	2.4
Food Manufacturing	1,040	1,040	1,030	0.0	1.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	310	310	250	-0.1	23.8
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	150	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,910	1,910	1,900	0.0	0.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,760	43,190	46,220	1.3	-5.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,690	13,540	13,470	1.1	1.6
Wholesale Trade	6,990	4,040	4,180	73.0	67.2
Retail Trade	7,860	7,670	7,650	2.5	2.7
Utilities	60	60	50	0.0	20.0
Transportation	1,780	1,770	1,580	0.6	12.7
Information	1,240	1,240	1,180	0.0	5.1
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,140	0.0	7.5
Professional & Business Services	5,800	5,680	9,480	2.1	-38.8
Educational & Health Services	7,180	7,120	6,790	0.8	5.7
Leisure & Hospitality	4,450	4,370	4,420	1.8	0.7
Other Services	1,910	1,890	2,040	1.1	-6.4
Government Education	3,610	3,580	3,470	0.8	4.0
Government Administration	3,580	3,470	3,230	3.2	10.8

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

signed an exclusive deal with the Idaho National Laboratory to research and produce a newly patented product, the Deep Focus Ultrasonic Transducer with Integrated Pulser Receiver. This product can "see through" most types of material much like a sonogram or x-ray. It has also been compared to a microscope that has the capability of seeing under the surface instead of just surface details. The transducer will examine nuclear fuel along with performing many other types of inspections. Information on the company is on the Web at www.okos.com.

